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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,490	02/13/2004	Yung-Hsin Kao	P/727-129	8065
2352	7590	10/06/2005	EXAMINER	
OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN 1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 100368403			LEE, EDMUND H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1732	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/779,490

Applicant(s)

KAO, YUNG-HSIN

Examiner

EDMUND H. LEE

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1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein (USPN 4590120) in view of the admitted prior art as set forth on pgs 1-3 of the instant specification. In regard to claim 1, Klein teaches the basic claimed process including a method for manufacturing an embossed mat (col 1, Ins 45-60; col 3, Ins 29-50; fig3); preparing a substrate and a patterned cover sheet (col 1, Ins 45-60; col 3, Ins 29-50; fig3); heating and softening the substrate (col 1, Ins 45-60; col 3, Ins 29-50; fig3); and embossing and cooling the softened substrate and the patterned cover sheet together by stacking and passing the softened substrate and the patterned cover sheet through a nip passage defined by a pair of embossing rollers so as to form the embossed mat (col 1, Ins 45-60; col 3, Ins 29-50; fig3). Klein, however, does not teach using foamed EVA as the substrate. The admitted prior art teaches molding an embossed mat from a substrate of foamed EVA and a patterned cover sheet. Klein and the admitted prior art are combinable because they are analogous with respect to embossed mats. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use foamed EVA as the substrate of Klein as taught by the admitted prior art in order to form a mat with cushion. In regard to claims 2-4, Klein teaches using an embossing roller that also cools (col 1, Ins 45-60; col 3, Ins 29-50; fig3). Klein, however,

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does not teach removing a skin layer of the substrate prior the heating step; and passing a coolant through the at least one embossing rollers. In regard to removing a skin layer of the substrate prior the heating step, such is well-known in the molding art and the thermal bonding art in order to enhance bonding between layers. thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to remove a skin layer of the foamed EVA substrate of Klein (modified) in order to enhance the thermal bonding between the substrate and the patterned cover sheet. In regard to passing a coolant through the at least one embossing rollers, such is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on equipment availability and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, using coolant as a cooling means is well-known in the molding art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to pass coolant through at least one of the rollers of Klein in order to effectively cool the embossed mat.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. USPN 3660200 teaches heating a substrate, embossing and cooling a combined substrate and cover sheet. USPNs 6676799, 4913858, and 6623839 show the state of the art.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDMUND H. LEE whose telephone number is 571.272.1204. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY FROM 9AM-4PM.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianni can be reached on 571.272.1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

EHL



10/11/07